

HOW THE RASCALS CHEAT UNCLE SAM

Sherlock Holmes of Pension Office Tells of Experiences
—Matrimonial Agency Man One of the Famous Scamps.

One of the largest detective agencies in the United States is that conducted by Uncle Sam for the purpose of investigating charges of fraud in connection with claims for pension. It readily may be imagined that with nearly 1,000,000 pensioners scattered through the country and new applications being filed at the rate of 200,000 a year this field offers extraordinary opportunities for the operation of "film-fam" games.

Many of the offenders have proved themselves to be men of exceptional ability and have managed by their wonderful ingenuity to escape detection for years while they amass comfortable fortunes through the gullibility of their victims. One of the important duties of the special pension examiner is to unearth these frauds and bring the guilty ones to justice.

Naturally those agents who have been long in service have acquired considerable skill in running down criminals in the pursuit of their elusive game. One of the most successful of these men, who for obvious reasons prefers that his name be withheld, has achieved a sort of Sherlock Holmes reputation in the department and much terror does his name inspire in the various localities where he has been stationed that his advent, if discovered, is always the signal for the pension crooks to flee.

For several years the headquarters of this man has been at the pension office in Washington. When any particularly artful law breaker proves too slippery for the agent in his section this month with the quiet manners and keen eyes is put upon the trail, and rare indeed is the case in which he fails to bring the criminal to justice.

In relating some of his experiences with famous mulefactors this detective said:

"At the June term of the United States court in a southern state there will be tried one of the cleverest and most desperate crooks who ever taxed

the patience of a government agent. We will call him John Smith, as he hasn't been convicted yet. Three times before have we had him locked up and each time he has managed to elude the vigilance of the officers and escape, only to set up in business immediately at his old tricks. His repository includes the parts of revenue officer, postoffice inspector and United States special pension examiner.

"As Charles W. Evans he posed successfully as the son of St. Clay Evans, then commissioner of pensions, and reaped a harvest by the humbug. When landed in jail last year on this charge he proceeded to disport himself like a mule, making several apparent attempts to commit suicide. Finally he succeeded in having himself committed to the government hospital for the insane at Washington, whence his escape was only a question of a short time.

"We traced him to Boone county, W. Va., where he took refuge in the woods. Through the mountains of five counties in the southern part of the state we chased him. Well, we captured him at last, and he rode quietly in the midst of the weary officers until within a half mile of Coal River, when he suddenly kicked his horse in the side and made a dash for the stream, followed by the entire posse in hot pursuit. Arriving at the bank he forced his horse to jump into the water and swim across, only to be overtaken by the sheriff on the opposite shore.

"In the struggle which ensued the officer was struck by the man's hands of the desperado and overpowered. In a flash Smith was back in the river, and in spite of handcuffs and overcoat swam across to the other side and escaped into the woods. Next day he struck a small town, where under the guise of a deputy marshal on the trial of a bank robber, he told a plausible tale of having been waylaid and robbed, and succeeded in securing money enough to supply his immediate needs.

"The last time I caught him, a few months ago, he was only partly dressed, but in spite of his protests we bound him and took him to Kincaid without a chance to finish his toilet. Feeling some

compunction for his half clad condition, I gave him my long rain coat as a protection from the inclemency of the weather. Suddenly, observing suspicious movements under the coat, I stepped behind him, and as a precautionary measure deliberately felt the garment from top to bottom. I was none too quick, for the rogue had almost succeeded in working his hands free from their fetters, under cover of the coat. You may fancy that I was relieved when I had my man safely landed in jail.

"The latest report from him was that he had beguiled a guard into giving him some carbolic acid and had proceeded to make himself ill, hoping no doubt, to be transferred to a hospital, and make his escape, but this time his game has failed, and he has been forced to re-occupy within prison walls.

"Perhaps the boldest and most versatile impostor who has ever come under the jurisdiction of the pension bureau was a man who was born of highly respectable parents in Toga county, New York, and whose career furnishes a remarkable proof of the extraordinary influence wielded by a convincing manner and attractive personality. The category of crimes of this talented adventurer included homicide, bigamy, impersonating a pension examiner, and playing the confidence game in unlimited variety.

"He practiced his wiles most successfully on trusting womanhood and made a famous record in the matrimonial line. In 1873 he was released from prison, where he had served a term of five years for killing a canal boat captain in a quarrel. From that time he traveled from town to town in western New York, transferring his talents later to Indiana, appearing in an entirely new role each time, and always managing to escape detection by the rapid disappearance.

"In every town where he lingered three weeks he chose some fashionable female as the victim of his fascinations, and the wedding ceremony followed with bewildering haste. Meanwhile he was doing comfortable income from fees obtained for the prosecution of doubtful pension claims.

"In this role, under the name of A. C. Webb, he took up his residence in Cumberland, Md., in 1882, and scattered flaming circulars through the mining region, but being rudely interrupted by the arrival of some bone fide pension officials he hastily left for Marietta, Pa., where he was shortly afterward arrested. A three years' sentence in the eastern penitentiary followed his trial in Philadelphia and conviction for forgery in pension claims.

"When released he took up his abode in Columbia county, Pa., in the dual capacity of revivalist, preacher and United States detective in pension claims.

WEST POINT'S LEADING GRADUATES



West Point's graduating class this year is the largest, most interesting and most prominent class in the history of the United States Military academy. There are 94 new lieutenants to be made this year and every West Point graduate will thus be immediately given a commission in the regular army. Above are portraits of members of the graduating class cited "best" in various lines.

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Vegetable Dishes 12c
Milk Pans 12c
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Flour Sifters 15c
Frying Pans 15c
Iron Baking Pans 12c
Punnets 3c to 7c
Feather Dusters 10c to 15c
Toilet Brushes 15c
Chopping Bowls 15c
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Tin Drinking Cups 2 for 5c
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Bread Toasters 5c
Scrub Brushes 5c to 10c
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Tea and Coffee Strainers 2c to 10c
Lemon Squeezers 10c
Best Sewing Machine Oil 7c
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wearing as a badge of office a huge metal star bearing the legend, "U.S. Detective, D. C." Finally, in May, 1889, this record breaker was located at Lime Ridge, Pa., where he had just preached an eloquent sermon at a camp meeting. Finding himself surrounded by the officers he made a fine display of indignant amazement; then reached for his revolver and succeeded in wounding several policemen. On his trial by the United States court at Scranton he was found that over 600 pensioners had been victimized into paying him fees averaging \$15 each.

"He delivered a brilliant address to the jury, admitting his guilt, with the explanation that some inward irresistible power impelled him to crime. This time he was committed for seven years."

Cataract of the Stomach
When the stomach is overloaded; when food is taken into it that fails to digest, it decays and inflames the mucous membrane, exposing the nerves, and causes the glands to secrete mucus, instead of the natural juices of digestion. This is called Cataract of the Stomach. For years I suffered with Cataract of the Stomach, caused by indigestion. Doctors and medicines failed to benefit me until I used Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. —J. R. Rhea, Coppell, Tex. Sold by all druggists.

The new Irrigation Law, in pamphlet form, only 10c at the Deseret News Book Store.

AN "AIR-WAVE" TYPEWRITER.

The newest development of wireless telegraphy is an air wave typewriter, which has been invented by Mr. A. Kamm, a well known engineer and member of the Royal Institution. The main idea is that messages typed on one of these machines are transmitted by wireless telegraphy to another machine at a certain point, where they are typed directly onto a tape. These machines are so delicately adjusted that interception is impossible, and absolute secrecy is ensured. Mr. Kamm has been working for years on various forms of electric typewriters to be used in connection with telegraph lines, and many of his machines are used by the German government and have been operated between London and Leamington, Brussels and Paris, Berlin and Frankfurt—London Illustrated Mail.

Just About Bedtime.
Take a Little Early Riser—it will cure constipation, biliousness, and liver troubles. DeWitt's Little Early Riser are different from other pills. They do not grip and break down the mucous membranes of the stomach, liver and bowels, but cure by gently arousing the secretions and giving strength to these organs. Sold by all druggists.

MINERS' MYSTERIOUS DISEASE.

The mysterious epidemic from which an enormous number of miners in Westphalia are suffering is now engaging the attention of the German medical community, who are seeking for a

means of coping with it. The symptoms of the disease are anaemia and dropsy, and death is very often the result.

After careful investigation, it has been found that the disease is due to a parasite which, strangely enough, attacks only men who are deprived of sunlight to a great extent. Although some 230,000 miners have been or are suffering from it, their wives and children, who do not work in the pits, appear to be entirely immune. There are hardly any mining districts in the country in which there are not some victims.

A commission of distinguished physicians and mining engineers now sitting in connection with a special staff of 145 physicians are appointed to take all steps for fighting the disease. It is believed that by the establishment of special hospitals and the adoption of drastic measures the disease may be stamped out in five to seven years—London Mail.

TO REWARD MOTHERS.

Senator Platt, who is head of the movement whose object it is to arrest the decrease in the population of France, has made a novel suggestion. In a letter which he has sent to the prime minister, he suggests that a medal should be struck and a special order founded for mothers of large families. "Soldiers and sailors, and even firemen, are decorated," he says, "and why should not the mothers, who perform the greatest of all services to the fatherland, have some recognition?"—London Express.

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54 inch dice damask, 65c value for 42c
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